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Rochelle Park, NJ 07662

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305) 209 '99 AUG 17 AM 12
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

August 12, 1999

Gentlemen:

I am writing concerning Docket number's 98N-1230; 96P-0418 and 97P-0197. It has come to my attention that the Food and Drug Administration is accepting public comments on reducing egg borne diseases because of the many illnesses and deaths caused each year by contaminated eggs. Please consider my suggestions when making your final decisions.

A common practice on egg farms is something called "forced molting." This practice intentionally starves egg laying hens for up to 14 days to manipulate their bodies into producing more eggs. Many human health concerns are raised due to this practice. Forced molting has been scientifically shown to promote disease by destroying the hens' immune systems. By starving chickens and depriving them of drinking water, increased shedding of Salmonella enteritidis occurs by the hens. This is clearly a human health concern.

I understand that the FDA is considering putting bacteria warning labels on egg cartons to make consumers aware of the risks associated with eating chicken eggs. Unfortunately, this action would do nothing to make the eggs safer for human consumption.

One possible action the FDA has jurisdiction to make is the outright banning of forced molting of layer hens. This is a necessary step in making a safer food supply in the United States. The FDA should immediately ban forced molting as an available agricultural practice because it has been shown to promote disease in hens, their eggs, and in the consumers of these eggs. This farm practice harms human health and should be stopped immediately.

In 1988 the FDA was petitioned to ban forced molting. This petition should be granted immediately. Your response will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

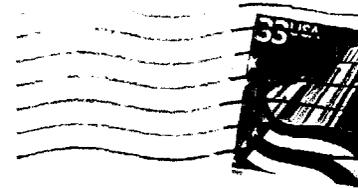


Joe Miele

96P-0418

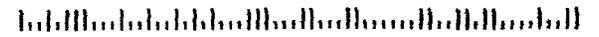
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CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number: 98N-1230/ C233

See File Number: 97P-0197/ C234
96P-0418/ C233